

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Public airwaves should be used to bring factual, objective information to voters, not partisan propaganda.

If Sinclair is going force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary, then they should also be obligated to air an anti-Bush documentary for the sake of balance. That way, at least, voters who watch Sinclair stations can see two examples of partisan propaganda, and then can at least have some modicum of choice. This decision by Sinclair shows exactly why we need stronger regulations and a stricter licensing renewal process for broadcasting companies using the public airwaves. Thank you.